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**THE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION EVERGLADES PLAN**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this solicitation is to procure a wide range of professional services from a consultant who will serve in a supporting role to the South Florida Water Management District (District) in the overall management and execution of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The District shall select a Team to support the implementation of the CERP Program. Construction Management and Support, and the various Design and Engineering Proponents, (project level activities) will be solicited separately. Due to the long duration of the CERP program, the resultant contract will be a five (5) year contract with the District's option to renew on a yearly basis for an additional five (5) years.

The District encourages the Respondent to organize a strong Program Management Team ("Team") that includes Minority/Woman Business Enterprises (M/WBE) as part of a diverse group of sub-consultants that represent the professional services of the various disciplines required for this solicitation. Please note that Florida statutes and District procurement policy may preclude any firm from being eligible to participate on any subsequent solicitations for work that is a result of the Team's work product. No minimum or maximum amount of work is guaranteed under this solicitation, and work will be procured on an "as-needed basis".


**2. INTRODUCTION**

The Design Agreement ("the Agreement"), between the Department of the Army ("the Government"), and the South Florida Water Management District ("the District"), for the design of elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Project, was executed on May 12, 2000. The Project, now known as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan ("CERP"), contains 68 components including structural and operational changes to the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project. This Agreement directed the District and the Government to contribute equally for the design of the CERP, applying those procedures usually applied to the engineering and design of Federal projects, pursuant to applicable Federal and State laws, regulations, and policies.

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The purpose of the CERP is to restore the south Florida ecosystem, which includes the Everglades. The purpose has guided all aspects of the CERP's development and proposed implementation. The CERP also provides for the other water-related needs of the region including urban and agricultural water supply and flood protection. The principal features of the CERP are as follows:

- **Surface Water Storage Reservoirs.** A number of water storage facilities that will encompass approximately 181,300 acres and that will have the capacity to store 1.5 million acre-feet of water.
- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery.** More than 300 wells will be built to store water 1,000 feet underground in the upper Floridan aquifer.
- **Stormwater Treatment Areas.** Approximately 35,600 acres of man-made wetlands will be built to treat urban and agricultural runoff water before it is discharged to the natural areas throughout the system. These are in addition to over 44,000 acres of areas already being constructed under the Everglades Forever Act.
- **Reuse Wastewater.** Two advanced wastewater treatment plants are planned and will be capable of making more than 220 million gallons per day of the Miami Dade County's treated wastewater clean enough to discharge in to the wetlands along Biscayne Bay and for recharging the Biscayne aquifer.
- **Seepage Management.** Millions of gallons of groundwater are lost each year as it seeps away from the Everglades towards the east coast. Adding subsurface impervious barriers along the levees to block loss of water, installing pumps near levees to redirect water back into the Everglades, and holding water levels higher in undeveloped areas between the Everglades and Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties, are the recommended solutions.
- **Removing Barriers to Sheetflow.** More than 240 miles of project canals and internal levees within the Everglades will be removed to reestablish the natural sheetflow of water through the Everglades.
- **Restoration of Wetlands.** Approximately 3,500 acres of wetlands throughout the Lake Okeechobee watershed will be restored by acquisition of flowage easements, plugging drainage ditches, and diverting canal flows. Sites range in size from individual isolated wetland sites to entire sub-basins. The purpose of these restoration projects is to improve water quality and to attenuate peak flows to Lake Okeechobee.

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- **Operational Changes.** Changes in water delivery schedules will be made as needed to alleviate extreme fluctuations.
  - **Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER).** The role of Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) is to organize and apply scientific and technical information in ways that are most effective in supporting the objectives of the CERP. RECOVER links science and the tools of science to a set of system-wide planning, evaluation and assessment tasks. These links provide RECOVER with the scientific basis for meeting its overall objectives of evaluating and assessing CERP performance, refining and improving the plan during the implementation period, and ensuring that a system-wide perspective is maintained throughout the restoration program.

The Agreement required the development of a Master Program Management Plan (the “MPMP”), prior to initiating design activities. The purpose of the MPMP is to:

- Provide a jointly established frame work, along with a set of processes and protocols, for managing and monitoring design, permitting and implementation of the Program;
- Provide Project Managers with guidance and templates for preparation of Project Implementation Reports (PIR), design plans and documents; and
- Documentation, scheduling and cost estimate procedures and annual updates for upcoming program-level and project-level activities for the current and two upcoming fiscal years.

The full Program of restoring the Everglades will take more than 30 years to complete. The Water Resources Development Act (“WRDA”) of 2000 authorized on December 11, 2000, began implementation of the CERP. Congress has authorized an initial \$1.4 billion package of projects to include, 1) four pilot projects; 2) ten specific project features; and 3) a programmatic authority through which smaller projects can be more quickly implemented. Authorization for the remaining features of the CERP will be requested in subsequent WRDA’s beginning in 2002.

### **3. SCOPE**

The scope of professional services for this solicitation will consist of providing overall planning and support activities for program management, financial reporting, procurement, technical review and peer review, real estate and land acquisition, water resources planning activities, ecologic evaluations, inspection, hydrology, permitting or permit support, public outreach activities, administrative services as described in the subsequent paragraphs, and other engineering services as required.

**Project level engineering services will be solicited separately, and Statement of Work.**

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The required services may be in the form of, all services associated with expert program management; assistance with the development of various types of reports; coordination of outreach activities; performance of multi-disciplinary studies; hydrology and hydraulic analyses/modeling; evaluation of environmental monitoring networks; cost benefit analyses; review of conceptual, preliminary, detailed or final designs; geotechnical and hydrogeologic investigation and evaluation, development of GIS based program summary and data management system.

A. Detailed scope and specific requirements for work order assignments will be developed with respect to a specific project or need.

All professional services shall be performed under the direction of a licensed professional where applicable, registered in the State of Florida in the specific/applicable service area.

Professional services may be required to support any one of the following disciplines:

- Civil Engineering
- Construction Auditing
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Financial Management
- Geotechnical Engineering
- GIS and CADD
- Hydrogeologic Services
- Information Technology
- Land Surveying
- Management Information Systems Support
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documentation
- Owner Controlled Insurance Program
- Procurement
- Program Management
- Public Communication
- Real Estate
- Resource Management
- Structural Engineering

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- Training and Education
- Water quality, Data collection and analysis
- Water Resource Engineering

B. Level of Effort: The Respondent must demonstrate how the Team will provide a “Level of Effort” support at the program level to meet CERP objectives and District responsibilities. The “level of effort” support includes providing professionals and support personnel that will be integrated into the District’s program organization, in accordance with Attachment “C”, “Program Level Organization Chart”, included in this solicitation.

C. Senior Leadership Team: The Respondent shall be required to assign three senior representatives to be members of a “Senior Leadership Team” (“Team”). The purpose of this Team shall be to ensure that there is consistency and standardization of processes, systems, and technology between the Government and the District. It is anticipated that the Team may meet monthly for the first (6) six months of the contract, bimonthly for the next 6 months, and then quarterly for the next 4 years, or an as needed basis to meet the objectives of the CERP.

The objectives of the Team shall be to provide overall consistency between the Government and the District, in development of common systems and programmatic practices as follows:

- Data and geophysical information collection and subsequent database(s) management
- Engineering standards and QC/QA program consistency
- Project documentation and development consistency
- Construction management standards
- Permitting and implementation of the NEPA process for all program and project specific elements
- Collaborative efforts of the Socio-Economic & Environmental Justice and outreach programs
- Other areas which will provide the CERP partnership with a seamless implementation of the entire program at the design, permitting, construction, and operational levels

The Team shall provide their own administrative, graphic and engineering support, necessary to achieve the objectives as outlined above or as defined by the Government.

The Government and the District representatives on the Senior Leadership Team may provide specific areas of responsibility for each of the District’s and Government’s programmatic consultant Teams in a manner that will best address the capabilities and needs of the Government and the District.

#### **4. WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE**

The work may include, but shall not be limited to, providing all professional services necessary to

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perform the following:

A. Program Management: The District's Project Controls Department supports the CERP in areas of scheduling, cost estimating, budgeting, project documentation and management, and coordinating the work performed by all Program/Project managers as required. A number of related programmatic tasks and projects interface with the program controls function. These related tasks include the Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER) tasks, public outreach, socioeconomic and environmental justice studies. The support tasks may be required, but shall not be limited to the following:

- Administrative support services
- Assistance with development/modification of schedules using P3e
- Attend, organize, facilitate and/or summarize meetings
- Budgeting
- Cost estimating
- Data management
- Document preparation, technical editing and production management
- GIS and CADD based data management and program review system
- Peer Review Services
- Performance Management Controls
- Program cost projections
- Program web-site development
- Programmatic scheduling (P3e)
- Socio-economic evaluation work (including Environmental Justice analyses)
- Software and Hardware requirements
- Support for technical presentations
- Training & Education
- Value Engineering/constructability reviews

B. Real Estate and Land Management: Real estate acquisition is a key element in the implementation of the CERP. Basic support tasks required for this effort may include, but shall not be limited to:

- Developing a real estate acquisition and land management strategy, schedule and cash-flow model
- Developing an interim land management strategy, interim land use guidelines
- Developing efficient and effective interim use performance and monitoring plans for acquired lands
- Improvements to the current land acquisition process and land management activities
- Land Management Activities

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- Parcel information gathering including project & parcel mapping
- Performance of Environmental Audits and Environmental remediation
- Assistance with relocation services under Public Law 91-646
- Shortlist or pre-qualify Appraisers, Title Companies/Closing agents
- Upgrading the real estate data management system (GIS based)
- Provide Financial management of federal assistance land acquisition program

C. Procurement Services: All project elements designated for performance by contract will be processed in accordance with the District's procurement policy and procedures. Support services may be required to augment the Procurement Division including but not limited to the following:

- Assistance with bonding and financing
- Assistance with developing lists of capable minority or small business firms
- Assistance with the objectives of the Equity in Contracting Plan
- Assistance with claims analysis and negotiations support
- Assistance with the development of Procurement Plans and Strategies
- Assistance with monitoring and assessment of small and minority contractors
- Assistance with procurement support / development of procurement documents
- Assistance with public information and outreach activities

D. Engineering Design Standard and Peer Review Process: This task consists of the development of design standards and criteria, modeling standards and peer review processes, to be utilized by the various project delivery teams. The peer review process shall assist the project delivery teams in determining whether the design products are consistent with established criteria, guidance, procedures established for the CERP, meeting appropriate engineering design standards, applicable codes and acceptable engineering practices and present the most appropriate technology. Water resource facilities which will be subject to these services may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Wells
- Bridges and all other related appurtenances
- Culverts
- Levees, canals, and flow-ways
- Pump Stations
- Seepage Barriers
- Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs)
- Surface Water Storage Reservoirs
- Waste water treatment plants
- Water control structures

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E. Environmental Engineering and Permitting Support: The basic support tasks required for environmental engineering and permitting support may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- Acquisition of programmatic environmental permits and the development of strategies for construction, operation and maintenance of CERP projects and other projects, on the program level.
- Development of CERP plans
- Conduct engineering feasibility studies related to program strategies and geographic areas within the CERP.
- Developing environmental performance measures based on project goals. Performance measures will include those necessary to comply with Federal requirements, including but not limited to the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and NEPA
- Perform environmental evaluations of alternative plans during the planning process.
- Perform all coordination and consultation with Federal agencies as required by Federal laws and policies.
- Prepare programmatic NEPA strategies and document formats

F. Public Outreach: Public outreach and its two primary components, involvement and information, will continue to play a key role in the CERP implementation effort. Each project will have its own public involvement and outreach requirements and activities, and a continuing need for program-level outreach efforts. The outreach plan for CERP contains three broad topic areas, and services to support these areas may be required as follows:

- Public Information and Education
- Outreach and assistance to Small Business concerns
- Agency, Public and Stakeholder Involvement

G. RECOVER Professional Services: Support services for aquatic science disciplines may be required for aquatic science disciplines including wetland ecology, limnology, natural systems modeling and database management and wildlife biology.

## 5. **PARTNERING:**

The District is willing to form a cohesive partnership with the Respondent and its sub-contractors to effectively accomplish the intent of this solicitation. This partnership would strive to draw on the strengths of each organization in an effort to achieve a quality project done right the first time, within



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budget and on schedule. This partnership would be bilateral in make-up, and participation will be totally voluntary. Both parties will benefit from an initial partnering meeting and each party will be responsible for the individual costs associated with said meeting.

## **6. ATTACHMENTS**

- “A”, Draft Schedule of Projects for the next 5 years
- “B”, Area Map of the CERP
- “C”, “Program Level Organization Chart”

## **7. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are available to Respondents for informational purposes only. This information is made available solely to allow Respondents to have access to the same information available to the District. They are not proposing documents, nor will they become Contract Documents.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the CERP documents, you may contact:

**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
Jacksonville District  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

**South Florida Water Management District**  
3301 Gun Club Road  
P.O. Box 24680  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

These documents are updated and available on the internet web site address: [www.evergladesplan.org](http://www.evergladesplan.org)

- Master Program Management Plan
- Socio-Economic & Environmental Justice Management Plan (Preliminary Staff Draft)
- Public Outreach Management Plan (Preliminary Staff Draft)